

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated December 3, 2002, claims 1-16 are noted as pending. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). Claims 7,8,15, and 16 are objected to due to certain informalities. Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Miki, U.S. Patent No. 5,892,276 (Miki). Claims 8-16 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miki. Applicant requests cancellation of claims 9-16. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

OBJECTIONS TO DRAWINGS

Claims 9-16 have been cancelled. Therefore, every feature of the claimed invention specified in the claims is now shown in the drawings.

OBJECTIONS DUE TO INFORMALITIES

Claims 7 and 8 have been amended to cure the informalities.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 102

Miki does not disclose "a first plurality of driver cells located between a nearest die edge and the plurality of bond pads" (emphasis added) as claimed in currently amended claim 1. Rather, Miki clearly discloses that the bond pads 4B are located at the die edge and the driver cells 8P are located farther away from the die edge than the bond pads 4B (see figure on cover). Therefore, claim 1 is distinguished over Miki. Dependent claims 2-8 are also distinguished over Hiraga.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

As discussed above, claims 1-8 are distinguished over Miki. Therefore, claim 8 is patentable over Miki.

CONCLUSION:

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 1-8 are distinguished over the cited art and are in condition for allowance. Allowance of claims 1-8 is respectfully requested.


DEPOSIT ACCOUNT AUTHORIZATION

Authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any charges that may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

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